

ACDHH & EHDI Advisory Committee Virtual Session Minutes March 12, 2026

Date: March 12, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting Online

I. Call to Order

Co-Chairs: Latrina Harris-Lewis and Fran Altmaier

Time: 10:07 AM

II. Roll Call / Attendance

Committee Members Present

- Fran Altmaier
- Bibi Ashley
- Annie Converse
- Katie Rawlings
- Germaine Graham
- Amber Hansen
- Latrina Harris-Lewis
- Dani Merrill
- Wendy Steuerwald
- Heidi Klomhaus
- Lisa Ring
- Coleen Haws

ACDHH Staff Present

- Rob Voreck (ACDHH Community Services Program Manager)
- Jael Garcia (Business Operations Specialist)

Absent Members

- Kelly Randall
- Laura Hocknull

III. Welcome and Member Introductions

- Co-co coordinator, Latrina, welcomed new members Lisa Ring and Coleen Haws. Members introduced themselves with their organization, role, and connection to the EHDI Advisory Committee.

- **Lisa Ring** shared her background as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with ASDB, serving families across Northern Arizona and working in early intervention services.
- **Coleen Haws** shared her experience in newborn hearing screening, including her role as Supervisor of Newborn Hearing Screening at Phoenix Children's Hospital.
- **Laura Hocknull** was unable to attend and will introduce herself at the next meeting.

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Meeting Reviewed:

ACDHH & EHDI Committee In-Person Meeting Minutes – **February 8, 2026**

Motion to approve: Fran Altmaier

Second: Amber Hansen

V. Old Business

Committee Membership Follow-Up

- Reviewed representation across partner systems for balanced participation.
- Key EHDI areas represented:
 - Early Newborn Hearing Screening
 - Early Intervention / Early Learning Programs
 - Newborn Screening Technicians
 - Parent Representatives
 - Audiology
 - Family Support Organizations
- With new members, statewide representation now balanced, strengthening coordination and collaboration.

Break: 10–15 minutes

VI. New Business

Family Survey

The committee reviewed plans for distributing a **Family Survey**.

Key details include:

- The survey will be distributed via **postcard with QR code**.
- Postcards will be available in **English and Spanish**.
- Spanish translation is currently being finalized.
- Target distribution timeline is **April**.
- Families who complete the survey and provide contact information will receive a **stroller organizer as a thank-you gift**.

Journey Through Screening and Beyond Materials

- Reviewed three draft postcard designs outlining 1-3-6 EHDI timeline.
- **Goals:** Provide families a clear visual guide post-newborn hearing screening.
- **Committee feedback:**
 - Add brief explanation of EHDI and 1-3-6 timeline
 - Ensure family-friendly, accessible language
 - Clarify terminology such as Part B services
 - Use plain language and checklist-style steps
- **Accessibility for families without smartphones:**
 - Website link
 - Phone number
 - Email contact
- Members to review drafts individually and submit feedback before final design selection

Deaf Mentor Program Video Update

Recent progress includes:

- Filming with **Bibi Ashley**, discussing the program.
- Filming with a participating family and Deaf Mentor.
- Additional B-roll footage captured for the video.
- ASL interpretation has been recorded.
- Narration has been re-recorded to improve tone and messaging.
- Video expected finalized and shared with committee by end of the month.

Family Resource Booklet

Currently being updated:

- Early Learning Program information
- Reviewing timelines
- Resources and materials
- Committee may review shared folder and suggest updates

EHDI Grant Update

- Fran Altmaier provided an update regarding the federal EHDI grant.
- The grant will **continue into Year 3**.
- Funding remains included in the **federal budget**.
- A **Notice of Award** is expected soon.
- Grant-funded activities will continue without interruption.
- 2024 EHDI data was submitted to the CDC.
- A review of grant goals and data will be provided at a future meeting to orient new members.

VII. Community and Professional Updates

Arizona Hands & Voices Family Picnic-Heidi

Date: April 4, 2026

Location: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

Event highlights include:

- Lunch for families
- Train rides
- Resource tables
- Clear backpacks for participating families
- Possible Easter egg hunt
- Community partner participation
- Gas cards available for families needing travel support

EHDI Family Leadership Award Nomination

- **Heidi Klomhaus** nominated for 2026 EHDI Family Leadership Award
- Committee congratulated her

Family Counseling Support

- Amber Hansen shared family counseling resources for parents of deaf/hard of hearing children
- Contact info and referral resources to be shared with committee members

VIII. Next Steps / Assignments

Committee members will:

- Review and provide feedback on Journey materials mockups
- Review Family Survey draft
- Share family resources and events in shared folder
- Prepare to review grant info and EHDI data at next meeting

IX. Upcoming Meeting

Next Meeting: April 9, 2026

Format: In-person

Location: ACDHH Board Room, Phoenix

Time: 10:00 AM

X. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Heidi Klomhaus

Second: Dr. Wendy Steuerwald

Time Adjourned: 11:49 AM